

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): An uncooked food product consisting essentially of a food selected from the group consisting of uncooked oat groats, uncooked corn grit and mixtures thereof, and added material absorbed into the food, said material being water soluble or water dispersible and selected from the group consisting of vitamins, minerals, nutrients selected from Echinacea extract, ginkgo, ginseng, bee pollen, lecithin, St. John's wort extract and mixtures thereof, spices, flavors and combinations thereof present in an amount of from about 0.0001% to about 2.0% on a dry weight basis of the food product.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original): The product of claim 1 wherein said oat groats are whole oat groats.

Claim 4 (original): The product of claim 1 wherein said oat groats are cut.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The product of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1 wherein said vitamins are selected from the group consisting of vitamin A, beta-carotene, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B₆, vitamin B₁₂, vitamin C, vitamin D, vitamin E, folic acid, and derivatives and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The product of claim 1 wherein said minerals are selected from the group consisting of derivatives of calcium, copper, iron,

magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, phosphorus, potassium, selenium, zinc, and derivatives and mixtures thereof.

Claims 8-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method of incorporating at least one water soluble or water dispersible ingredient into the body of food selected from the group consisting of uncooked oat groats and uncooked corn grit, comprising:

- (a) tempering the food;
- (b) contacting the food with an aqueous infusion mixture of water and the ingredient for a time and in an amount and ingredient concentration effective to increase the moisture content of the food by from about 1% to about 35% by weight of the food to absorb the ingredient; and
- (c) optionally equilibrating the contacted food with the aqueous infusion mixture for a sufficient amount of time to cause further absorption of the ingredient by the food.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17 further comprising drying the oat groats to a desired moisture concentration after absorption of the ingredient.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 17 further comprising heating the aqueous solution to about 120°F to dissolve the materials of said solution prior to the applying step.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein said selected materials are applied to the oat groats at a concentration of from about 0.0001% to about 2.0% on a dry weight basis of the food.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein said oat groats are dried to a moisture concentration of about 8% to about 10% on a dry weight basis.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein said drying step is accomplished at a temperature of from about 150° F to about 300 ° F.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein said drying step is accomplished by a dryer selected from the group consisting of a continuous belt dryer; a fluidized bed, forced air dryer; or a kiln-type grain dryer.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said food is uncooked oat groats and said aqueous infusion mixture is applied to the surface of the uncooked oat groats in an amount of from about 2% to about 29% by total weight of the oat groats.

Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein said equilibrating step is conducted by holding in a storage bin.

Claim 27 (original): The method of claim 17 further comprising drying the uncooked oat groats to a desired moisture concentration prior to step (a).

Claim 28 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the infusion mixture is a solution.

Claim 29 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the infusion mixture is a dispersion.

Claim 30 (original): The method of claim 17 further comprising flaking the groats after absorption of the ingredient.

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (currently amended): The method of claim 17 wherein said vitamins are selected from the group consisting of derivatives of vitamin A, beta-carotene,

thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B₆, vitamin B₁₂, vitamin C, vitamin D, vitamin E, folic acid, and ~~mixture~~ mixtures thereof.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said minerals are selected from the group consisting of derivatives of calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, phosphorus, potassium, selenium, zinc, and derivatives and mixtures thereof.

Claim 34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (currently amended): A method of adding at least one non-water soluble ingredient to uncooked oat groats so such ingredient becomes adsorbed onto at least a portion of the surface of the uncooked oat groats, the method comprising:

- (a) tempering the oat groats;
- (b) contacting the surface of the uncooked oat groats with an aqueous mixture containing the non-water soluble ingredient for a time and in an amount and ingredient concentration effective to increase the moisture content of the uncooked oat groats by from about 1% to about 35% and to cause adsorption of the ingredient; and thereafter

- (c) optionally equilibrating the uncooked oat groats with the aqueous mixture for a sufficient amount of time to cause further adsorption of the ingredient onto at least a portion of the surface of the oat groats.

Claim 36 (original): The method of claim 35 further comprising drying the oat groats to a desired moisture concentration after step (b) of claim 35 to provide a dried uncooked oat groat product having the non-water soluble ingredient adsorbed onto at least a portion of the surface thereof.

Claim 37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 35 wherein the selected ingredients applied to the oat groats have a concentration of from about 0.0001% to about 2.0% on a dry weight basis of the oat groats.

Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 35 wherein said drying step is accomplished at a temperature of from about 150°F to about 300°F.

Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 35 wherein said oat groats are dried to a moisture concentration of about 8% to about 10% on a dry weight basis.

Claim 41 (original): The method of claim 35 wherein said equilibrating step is conducted by holding in a storage bin.

Claims 42-45 (canceled)

Claim 46 (original): The method of claim 35 wherein said drying step is accomplished by a dryer selected from the group consisting of a continuous belt dryer; a fluidized bed, forced air dryer; and a kiln-type grain dryer.

Claim 47 (original): The method of claim 35 wherein the aqueous mixture is applied to said oat groats at a concentration of from about 2% to about 29% by weight of the oat groats.

Claim 48 (original): The method of claim 35 further comprising flaking the oat groat product after step (b).

Claim 49 (original): The method of claim 35 further comprising drying the uncooked oat groats to a desired moisture concentration prior to step (a).

Claim 50 (previously presented): The product of claim 1 wherein said product has a moisture content of about 8% to about 10%.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The product of claim 1 wherein said added material is substantially fat-free.

Claim 52 (canceled)

Claim 53 (previously presented): The product of claim 1 wherein said material is substantially fat-free.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said contacting and said tempering occur simultaneously.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The method of claim 54 further comprising flaking the food wherein said contacting and optional equilibrating occurs prior to said flaking.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The method of claim 35 wherein said contacting and said tempering occur simultaneously.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The method of claim 56 further comprising flaking the food wherein said contacting and optional equilibrating occurs prior to said flaking.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein said contacting occurs prior to said tempering.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The method of claim 35 wherein said contacting occurs prior to said tempering.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The method of claim 35 wherein said non-water soluble ingredient is selected from the group consisting of vitamins, minerals, natural nutrients, and mixtures thereof.